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FEMA Independent Study Courses

On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued the Homeland Security Directive 5, Management of Domestic Incidents, which directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System (NIMS). In March 2004, the Department of Homeland Security issued a document describing the NIMS framework in which government and private entities can work together to manage domestic incidents, regardless of their cause, size, location, or complexity.

In response, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has published an online primer entitled IS700 National Incident Management System. This serves as an introduction of NIIMS and explains the purpose, principles, key components, and benefits of NIIMS. The course takes approximately three hours to complete and can be accessed at <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700.asp>. In addition, several other emergency management courses are also available online.

I encourage each of you to take advantage of this opportunity to become acquainted with NIMS. Your continued involvement in the community can only strengthen the relationships between local, state, and federal agencies.

Sincerely,

B. A. WATSON
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Federal Maritime Security Coordinator